

the public health emergency has been extended again for the twelfth time.

Madam Speaker, it is past time to end this blatant Federal overreach, and that is exactly what we are going to do. This week, House Republicans will vote to repeal the public health emergency, stop the forced vaccination of our healthcare workers, and finally get Federal workers back to their offices to serve the American people.

It is time to restore individual liberty to the American people so the American people, not the Federal Government, can make the best decisions for themselves and their families.

NATIONAL SALES TAX OF 30 PERCENT

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, extreme MAGA Republicans have an economic plan that will hurt working families. House Republicans are set to advance a new 30 percent national sales tax.

Let me repeat that: 30 percent national sales tax.

This will increase the average family's cost for groceries and everyday essentials by about \$100 every single month.

On top of that, they want to cut Social Security, cut Medicare. Working families will lose their hard-earned benefits.

They are putting their special interests over the working class. They are putting special interests over people.

Rest assured, Madam Speaker, no matter what extreme MAGA Republicans do, House Democrats will continue to fight for working families. It is the middle class that makes our country strong. We will be there to put them over politics. We will be there to put people first.

OUR NATION IS CURRENTLY \$31 TRILLION IN DEBT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, our Nation is currently \$31 trillion in debt. Unfunded liabilities, meaning debt we can't fund, are almost \$124 trillion.

For the past 2 years, Democrat majorities have added \$300 billion in new extra Federal spending. This level of spending is actually driving inflation. It is fueling runaway inflation that is driving up the price of everything from gasoline—we have known about that for a long time—to eggs, which seems to be a more recent phenomena.

Why do we have to keep doing this? We shouldn't. America is the land of plenty. America is the land of innovation. We can produce anything we want. We can innovate new and better ways to do it in this country. We are

being hampered by government, regulations, lack of planning. Overspending by government has taken away the initiative of people to be able to do things on their own instead of being harmed by government spending and regulation.

We have to address Washington, D.C.'s, reckless spending, which is driving inflation and a massive amount of debt. If the interest rates keep going up, we won't even be able to service the debt the way we should.

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight a major legislative win which was the designation of the National Heritage Area Act for my home of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands.

I thank Senator ANGUS KING for his support, who introduced the Senate companion bill, which was signed into law by President Biden.

St. Croix, with its place of landing, is the only place in the United States in which Christopher Columbus actually set his foot. It is home to native Caribs, as well as Taino Indians, who engaged and fought with Christopher Columbus. It is the home of Alexander Hamilton. We have a history of enslavement and struggle to maintain our African ancestors' culture on that island.

Seven nations have owned the U.S. Virgin Islands at one point or another, adding to a rich blend of many cultures and ideas; the epitome of Americanism, how the innovation and continual change in our country takes place.

St. Croix's National Heritage Area designation is the culmination of nearly 20 years of advocacy and work. We look forward to what it brings to our island.

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REDUCING THE NATIONAL DEBT

(Mr. MCCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, this week, Americans are hearing about yet another battle over the debt ceiling, a fiscal restraint that was supposed to stop Congress from spending too much.

Every couple of years, Congress basically gives itself a free pass and votes to raise the debt ceiling, kicking the can down the road. With a national debt over \$31 trillion, this is a game our country cannot afford to keep playing.

Today, President Biden is set to miss his budget deadline as required by law for the third consecutive year. I would love to see us actually handle the budget one item at a time rather than in a typical omnibus.

Vilification of debt control and protecting our future generations is not where this discussion should start. We are not going to get rid of this deficit in 1 year, but we can get rid of something this year. Can we at least have a small step toward reducing our national debt for the future of our children?

Hardworking American families have balanced budgets every month, every year, and they deserve a government that does the same.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 7, RELATING TO A NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE PRESIDENT ON MARCH 13, 2020; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 139, STOPPING HOME OFFICE WORK'S UNPRODUCTIVE PROBLEMS ACT OF 2023; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 382, PANDEMIC IS OVER ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 497, FREEDOM FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 75 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 75

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 7) relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 139) to require Executive agencies to submit to Congress a study of the impacts of expanded telework and remote work by agency employees during the COVID-19 pandemic and a plan for the agency's future use of telework and remote work, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 382) to terminate the public health emergency declared with respect to COVID-19. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered